

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A substantially pure nucleic acid molecule having at least 90% sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of the myosin phosphatase-Rho interacting protein (M-RIP) polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 19, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that binds myosin phosphatase, RhoA, or both, and wherein said nucleic acid molecule has 100% sequence identity to nucleotides 1633-2469 of SEQ ID NO: 19.

6. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a human M-RIP protein.

7. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid has the nucleic sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19.

8. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

9. – 35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid molecule has 100% sequence identity to nucleotides 1633-2634 of SEQ ID NO: 19.